

FOR PRESIDENT.
HENRY CLAY,
OF KENTUCKY.

Democratic Whig Central Committee. A meeting of this committee will be held on Tuesday evening, February 14, at the Broadway House, at 7 o'clock.

PHILIP HONE, Chairman.
JOSEPH T. FENNER, Secretary.
EDWARD E. COWLES, Secretary.

For Naval Court Martial, Book Notices, Abstract of Charge in Foreign Tariffs in 1842, N. Y. Legislature, Sunday School on the North Carolina, &c. &c. see First Page.

For important information with respect to the Silk Culture, Orange on Bill Johnson, Anecdotes and Miscellaneous, see Last Page.

Mr. Merrick's Bill.

The Senate, as we have stated, has passed, by 24 to 12, Mr. Merrick's bill forbidding and punishing the running of Expresses on Mail Routes. Before passing it, they excepted Bank Notes from the operation of this penal act, so they may be sent as hitherto; but the motion to exclude News-papers was defeated by the following vote:

Yea—Messrs. Bates, Crafts, Huntington, Phelps, Porter, Smith, South, Smith, of Ia., Tallmadge, Wilcox, Woodbridge, Woodbury—11.
Nays—Messrs. Allen, Bagby, Barrow, Bayard, Benton, Buchanan, Calhoun, Clayton, Conrad, Dayton, Fulton, Graham, Henderson, Kerr, King, Linn, McDuffie, Mangum, Merrick, Miller, Morehead, Sevier, Sturgeon, Tappan, Walker, Wright, Young—7.

The question was then taken on striking out the words "written and printed matter," and decided in the negative, as follows:

Yea—Messrs. Bates, Dayton, Evans, Graham, Huntington, Morehead, Phelps, Porter, Smith, of Conn., Smith, of Ia., Wilcox, Woodbridge, Woodbury—13.
Nays—Messrs. Allen, Bagby, Barrow, Bayard, Benton, Buchanan, Calhoun, Clayton, Conrad, Dayton, Fulton, Graham, Henderson, Kerr, King, Linn, McDuffie, Mangum, Merrick, Miller, Morehead, Sevier, Sturgeon, Tappan, Walker, Wright, Young—24.

So all Magazines and Pamphlets weighing less than one pound each (as all do) must be transmitted by Mail exclusively, or pay a penalty of \$150. And this conversion of the Post Office into the most oppressive and destructive monopoly is sanctioned by such freedom-loving 'Free Trade' Democrats as Messrs. Allen, Benton, Buchanan, Calhoun, Walker and Wright—in short, all the Loco-Focos but three, with eight of the Whigs. Thus the bill has been driven through the Senate by a minority vote of that body.

We can hardly hope that our voice will be heard on this subject by the House, yet we cannot believe that the Post Office Committee will report this bill without very essential amendments. We have said what we thought most material on this subject, yet we must be allowed a few more illustrations:

1. This bill is most detrimental to the public. It is often a great and general benefit to have news expressed through from point to point in advance of the Mail and published, preventing speculators from taking secret and unfair advantage of it. This bill cuts off all this, and leaves the public at the mercy of those who will get important news through ahead, and make private use of it.

2. It is unjust to the cheap press. The cash papers pay more revenue to the Department than the others, yet do not load it with half the bulk. Yet this bill tends to break down the cash press, and drive the public back to the broad sheets. The cheap press, if restricted in this way, must become more local in its character than it now is, and then, if a man is forced to pay just as much postage for a daily paper—\$3.12 a year, or \$4.68 if over 100 miles—he will often choose a large one. Thus the Department will be compelled to carry much greater weight for the same money.

3. It is oppressive to the poor. Thousands of poor mechanics in New-Haven, Hartford, Poughkeepsie, Newburgh, Hudson, Newark, Paterson, &c. now have a New-York paper served daily at their doors at the earliest moment for nine to twelve cents per week. Pass this bill, and these men must wait hours longer for their paper, pay double for it, and then have to walk a quarter to three-quarters of a mile for it. The result is obvious: they will be forced to go without, and while they are crippled, the Department will but pick up here and there a penny from it. The Newark mechanics now have The Tribune and their breakfast: pass this bill, and they cannot have it at all, until so late an hour that they cannot find time to read it. Why should this be?

4. These restrictions and penalties are wrong in principle. If the Government chooses to make letter-carrying a monopoly and punish it outside of the Mail with felony, the people will stand it, though it is going just the wrong way to work; but it is impossible that this law should be obeyed. Our carriers in Brooklyn, Jersey City, &c., within sight of our office, will be trespassers against its letter. All the Magazines will be compelled to violate it, or be ruined.

There is not a particle of need of any such law. The Government is able to carry letters and newspapers cheaper than any body else, and as quick as any. Yet, while the price of transporting a barrel of flour from Troy to New-York was 12½ c. during navigation, a letter, carried by the Government in the same boat, was charged 18½. Yet with this exorbitant charge the Government has taken the slow stage-route all winter, and let the news come through by Railroad half a day to a day and a half ahead of it. Of course, those who had letters requiring despatch have been obliged to despatch them by friends going over the Railroad. Who can blame them?

If the Department will just take hold at the right end, reduce its rates of Postage one-half or more on letters and on newspapers sent less than 100 miles, and run the mails through on the quickest routes (we don't ask that it hurry, only take care not to fall out of sight behind) it will have revenue enough, and no trouble with Expresses. If it insists on baiting with vinegar instead of honey, and Congress sees fit to humor it, we must abide the serious injury it will inflict upon us, with thousands besides, but the experiment cannot be of any great duration.

The reception of HENRY CLAY at Mobile was most enthusiastic and magnificent, although the breaking down of the steamboat which conveyed him from New-Orleans had kept the People in suspense a whole day. We have full accounts of the festivity in our Mobile papers, but the letters of our correspondent will suffice. No party character was given to the entertainment, but the People without distinction pressed forward to welcome the great American Statesman. The Address of Gov. Gayle conveyed no party allusion, and the reply of Mr. Clay expressly deprecated the indulgence of party spirit on such occasions, and trusted that the People would hereafter more frequently meet and mingle irrespective of party differences and divisions. The contrast between these views and those of the man who consorts with and addresses only 'my Democratic fellow-citizens' is striking.

"Flour Dealers" want to know why the eminent citizen "born a baker" was not kneaded in the Flour Inspection. They must inquire at the Captain's office.

"To-morrow is St. Valentine's Day"—the festival of Cupid—the permitted season for poetic and sly avowals of the tender passion. Its recurrence was wont to cause a flutter in many a gentle heart, belles and beauties wondering whether they should receive more Valentines than last year, and using the occasion as a barometer of the increase or wane of their attractions, while young misses in their early teens wondered whether it was not time they should begin to receive these delicate missives, and from whom their first might be expected. Alas for the ravages of death-dealing Time!

"Those days are gone. No more, no more The cruel Fates allow."

Rose-colored paper is at a discount and amatory notes "uncurrent." The penny-postman, once the most important and popular functionary in the land on the 14th of February, now finds his business hardly augmented on that anniversary; and should some crack-brained wooer of the Muses presume to send a billet-doux to any stately and well-off maiden, whom he has chosen as the 'bright, particular star' of his adoration, he may think himself too blest—granted the notoriety of the fact that his possessions are not material and substantial—if the basket of rare fancies covering and conveying 'the priceless treasure of his affection' is permitted to sport with the tangles of Nereus's hair in the prosaic character of curl-paper. Ah me! the days of the troubadour are over—this is a 'bank-note world,' despite the 'fine phrenzy' of McDonald Clarke and the turgid thunders of Benton.

Protection to Free Trade.

We cannot see how the Evening Post should say that our remarks at the Tabernacle were to the effect that Manufacturers are more desirable than anything else, &c. &c., when we so expressly and repeatedly explained that what we advocated and deemed essential was a proportioned National Industry—Agriculture, Manufactures, and every branch of industry to which our climate or soil offers no impediment, to an extent adequate to our own wants, as a matter of course, and positive intent to all. Our whole argument was designed to prove that such a state of proportioned and wisely adjusted industry as would make our country the producer for the supply of her own wants was best for Agriculture, and for all our Home Interests—best for our own country and for all countries. We undertook to show (and we had supposed with success) that such production would in very truth be far cheaper for our People, although on a superficial view the current money price at which some articles might be obtained abroad might seem to render their importation preferable.

Happily, what we did say was fully on paper, and will be published verbatim shortly. Then the Post will have a fair chance to pick flaws in it.

Our astute friend of the Brooklyn Eagle also talks of our arguments as though it sat badly on his digestion. He ought not to betray chagrin while proclaiming we were overthrown. His chief objection to our argument appears to be, however, that it was not new—that we had expressed the same views before, particularly in the Whig Almanac. Yet Mr. Godwin, our able and courteous opponent, contended, on the other hand, that they were new—we had taken entirely new ground from the old Protective doctrines, and he harped with some effect on the discrepancy. Now it is true that we drew our line of circumscription outside of the old Reciprocity ground, but we did not infringe on that ground a hair. Our argument overthrown, that remains in full force, and vice versa. Yet our critic over the River is also half right—we have always individually maintained the views we put forward at the Tabernacle, though we have seldom had an opportunity to set them forth so systematically as there. The argument was different, but the principles were those we have ever held, and expect ever to hold, on the subject.

The Loco-Focos of MASSACHUSETTS held a jollification at Faneuil Hall on Thursday evening last, as they had a perfect right to do. Governor Morton was present, but not Gov. (?) Dorr, so that the report that the latter was in Boston must be a mistake. Burrington Anthony fully represented the Dorrism of Rhode Island, and among the 'speakers' was Gov. Morton, the 'soldier of Fortune,' Ben. F. Hallett, orator Bancroft, (who perpetrated an extravagant eulogium on Benton!) Robert Rantoul, Jr. &c. &c. Letters of sympathy were read from Mr. Van Buren dated Lindenwald—(is that the Ross-Bateman for Kinderhook?) from Govs. Fairfield, Hubbard and Cleveland, but no Dorr. Why not? Neither does our 'Agriculture' appear to have been invited—indeed, we think his 'Democracy' can hardly be deemed orthodox by the Calum papers. Gov. Morton made a very good speech, reminding the boys that if they wanted to elect him again they must behave themselves before folks, and Mr. P. W. Lealand, the resigned President of the Senate, gave the following specimen toast:

That some old coin—gone into Algerine captivity: if his reason exceeds in value a piousness shipwreck, he will never again visit these shores.

The Loco-Foco who observed of this genius that "the Whigs could not make a fool of our President—Nathaniel has got the start of 'em," exactly hit it.

The slaying of Hutchinson Heberton in Philadelphia, on Friday evening, by Singleton Mercer, brother of a girl whom he had seduced, adds another to the long list of horrible outrages to be charged to the account of the villainous neglect of our laws to provide for the punishment of those crimes which destroy the honor and peace of domestic life. Here are two families plunged into the deepest misery and shame; and yet what redress can the law minister or exact? Not the life of Mercer; for no jury can be found, however delighting in capital punishment, which will take the life of the slayer acting under the burning sense of unmerited shame, the horrible, maddening provocation, which fired the brain of the unhappy Mercer. The law cannot do justice in this case, because it is itself unjust in neglecting to provide for the punishment of such villains as Heberton; and thus a whole torrent of bloodshed and woe is let in upon society through one fatal omission. Is it not possible to awaken the attention and the consciences of law-makers on this subject? If not, cannot men be elected who would do justice and preserve the community from such anarchical and demoralizing tragedies? What has the libertine press to offer on this subject? Does it not afford a theme for ribald merriment equal to that presented by the petitions of thousands of virtuous women for some legislation against licentiousness?

The Lecture on "THE FORMATION OF CHARACTER" by H. Greeley, has been printed at the request of a few friends, and will be published at this office on Wednesday. Price 12½ cts.—Whoever wants it may obtain it upon application to any of the Newsmen. A small edition only has been printed, but no one need make haste to obtain it on that account. The typography is commendable.

The City Prison.

We have an additional chapter or two to indite on this establishment. Beside the practice of imprisoning witnesses, of which we took occasion to speak the other day, there are other matters against which we must be allowed to enter our protest. Go into the Female department of the Tombs at any time, and you will find the corridors and stairs thronged with all sorts of females, from those who have been steeped in vice for years, to the young girl who has been thrust there for her first alleged offence. Here they are all crowded indiscriminately together; and here the young tyro, when perhaps she is just beginning to tremble with loathing, disgust and horror at the false step and its consequences, receives encouragement, patronage and instruction from those older and more hardened in iniquity. Here she is familiarized with the most undisguised infamy; here she hears the highest encomiums bestowed on the least scrupulous; here she sees those apparently most happy who are the most reckless in sin; here, in short, every influence is polluting—her intercourse with her fellow prisoners is so without qualification. Some of these, too, have frequent visitors from without, whose presence contributes to any thing but order and a better state of things, if we may judge from the oaths, blasphemy and filthy jests which are bandied between them. We have seen in these passages things that are commonly designated gentlemen, sometimes the counselors and advisers of these miserable creatures, who seem to adapt themselves with admirable facility to the society in which they find themselves for the moment. Here the fumes of rum and tobacco steep the senses; a foul atmosphere poisons the health and cripples the better energies; and altogether, we believe it would be difficult to put in operation a more cunningly devised plan for corrupting the mind and stimulating the propensities which lead to crime. As a means of protecting communities, the system is so near a failure that we know of no other word which will so well describe it. It makes the bad worse—the worst no better; and is perfectly impotent to restrain by fear the largest classes of offenders. This is every day demonstrated by the readiness with which great numbers, who have once enjoyed its hospitalities, return to it when they have been expelled. It is well known that large numbers of both sexes are the constant inmates of this establishment, and of the Penitentiary on Blackwell's Island. They are first sent to the Tombs for some crime or misdemeanor, have their trial, and if the offence is deemed worthy of it, go up to the Island and spend from one to six and twelve months. They are then discharged, return to the City, and remain sometimes a week, sometimes a day, and sometimes a few hours only, before they are escorted back, where they find a large circle of acquaintances and associates as depraved and foul as themselves. Here, then, is congenial society; food—if not the best—better, perhaps, than they could procure elsewhere; and leisure to enjoy these and whatever other pleasures the place may afford. Here they live in filth, foul atmosphere, drunkenness, and whatever else of evil can be prosecuted; and here they corrupt each other, making themselves each day tenfold more the children of perdition.

Now we have no objection to these poor wretches having a comfortable place of refuge provided for them, when they are no longer safe members of community; but we have objections to this place being made a den of pollution, and to their confinement therein being made the occasion of corrupting and making them every way worse instead of better. We have, too, an objection to their being supported here in idleness at the public expense, when their industry might be made available to afford a revenue to the City, and in cases where it might be proper, to furnish themselves with means to go out and live, for a few days at least, independent of prostitution and theft. But we have said enough for the present. We have a few suggestions to make hereafter of a better plan.

Have we any Grand Jury in our city? There was an editorial in The Sun of Friday relating to the wife and child of Mr. Bennett, which is more horribly revolting than any thing we ever saw in a newspaper before. We presume it is utterly false and malignant every way; yet, if there were a possible foundation for it in truth, that would not at all excuse or palliate it. It is not in regard to the individuals assailed that we speak; though the fact that a woman is the wife of the editor of the Herald does not put her out of the pale of the decencies of society. Of her we know nothing good or bad; but we do know that the Character of our City, as well as its Morals, is outraged when such an article as the Sun's is suffered to go 'unwhipped of justice.' That article will fall into the hands of the virtuous and innocent—the unfixed and the imprudent—it will be read by gentle and guileless children; and what must be the impressions of Society and Public Morals thence derived? What the ideas of modesty and decency of deportment and language? We have had lots of poor infamous rascals indicted for publishing filthy papers which were only read by the impure, and so could do comparatively little harm; but here is a journal which makes its way into decent families using language to clothe its beastly ideas which would disgrace the vilest purities of our city, and must exert a corrupting and degrading influence. Can it be that no action is to be taken upon it in behalf of outraged justice?

TEMPERANCE AMONG THE VICTIMS OF CRIME.—On Wednesday evening last, a Temperance Meeting of the prisoners on Blackwell's Island was held in the Chapel of the Prison, which was addressed with eloquence and effect by Messrs. Peck, W. Edmonds and Gilbert of the Washington and Marshall Societies. The result of this meeting was the signing of the Pledge by eighty-two of the prisoners and two of the keepers, in addition to over three hundred prisoners who had signed previously. Mr. Keen, the excellent Superintendent, whose heart is in the good work, was busily engaged in filling up Washingtonian certificates till 11 o'clock. The work will still be carried forward.

The ground will be broken in the Alms House this evening, when some of our best Temperance Speakers will be on hand. The Commissioners and Mr. Stevens, the Superintendent, are giving every facility to the work, and we trust it will be effectual and triumphant.

The Dorr Party of RHODE ISLAND fight entirely shy of Dorr or Dorrism. No allusion to either is made in the Resolutions of their late Convention. Why did they not nominate their Chief for reelection? Call you this backing your friends?

The war in NEW-HAMPSHIRE between the ultra Radicals and the Hill faction is hot and furious. The New-Hampshire Gazette, at Portsmouth, the oldest Democratic paper in the State, has joined the Hill forces.

Arrival of Henry Clay in Mobile.

Correspondence of The Tribune.

MOBILE, Ala. Feb. 11, 1843.

On account of the expected arrival of HENRY CLAY this day there has been almost an entire suspension of business. Mr. Clay was expected to arrive in the steamboat Creole from New-Orleans at 10 A. M. According to previous arrangement, at 9 A. M. the steamers Jefferson, Gen. Gaines, New Albany, Formosa, Arkansas, and Gainesville, left the City with a large number of our citizens—the Jefferson having on board the Committee of Arrangements to meet the Creole in the bay and escort Mr. Clay to the City. A short distance from town the Jefferson got aground, and the General Gaines followed and also grounded—the other boats passed on, and proceeded down the bay. The Committee sent to town for the Lalla Rookh, to go down and take them off. In a short time she went down and grounded in the attempt. The Arkansas then came back and also grounded near the Jefferson. The weather was very cold and windy; but no difficulties can or will check the enthusiasm of the friends of HENRY CLAY in this section. By 10 A. M. the large wharf in front of Hitchcock's press, at which Mr. Clay was to land, was covered with the Military, Firemen, and Citizens, who assembled to greet Mr. Clay on his arrival. Flags were hoisted on all the shipping in port, and the whole scene was one of the most animated ever witnessed in our City. Between 12 and 1 o'clock—the Creole not yet being in sight—the steamers returned to town, those aground having got off. On our return to the City we learned that the Creole had broken her shaft, and the mail was forwarded across from Pascagoula by land. The Companies that were to form the procession, however, remained in readiness till nearly dark, when they returned and separated, the boat not yet being in sight. Mr. C. will probably arrive during the night or in the morning, and will meet with as hearty and warm a welcome, although less ceremonious, as though he had arrived when expected.

The Cotton market here is very inactive, as both buyers and sellers are waiting for the news by the steamer. Sellers are holding at firm prices on account of the advance in exchange, and the uncertainty of our currency. Exchange has advanced nearly ten per cent. within a few days, contrary to expectation here, and is attributed to the inactivity of the Cotton market. It is argued that the very large crop, which will have to be sold, must make the supply of exchange exceed the demand largely; and as the Banks will be put in liquidation, that the circulation of the State Bank and branches, which is less than \$5,000,000, must soon be absorbed, as there is due to the Banks over \$8,000,000, which is undoubtedly good, and of which a large amount must be paid in during the year. It is, therefore, believed that if the crop continues to be purchased with the present currency, that the present rates of exchange cannot be maintained. On the other hand it is believed that the placing of the Banks in liquidation, and the consequent uncertainty of its continuing as currency will necessarily cause a heavy depreciation of its current value. All desire to see business here once more transacted upon a specie basis, and the fact that we must soon come to it, will have a strong tendency to depreciate Alabama money.

Many planters are now demanding specie or specie funds for their Cotton. Several factors are holding cotton for sale for specie funds, as a large portion of the Cotton on hand here from Mississippi is ordered to be sold for specie funds only.

FEB. 21—11 A. M.

Mr. CLAY has just arrived on the Creole, followed by the steamers Jefferson, Formosa, and New Albany, crowded with passengers. The Creole has gone up the river to the upper end of the town to turn round, and will go back to Hitchcock's wharf, at the lower end of the City, where crowds await the arrival of the Orator and Statesman of Kentucky, to hear his eloquent voice. A procession will be formed as soon as he is formally received, to escort him to the residence of W. I. Ledyard, Esq. on Government street, with whom Mr. Clay will stop.

Exchange is still very scarce, and I am unable to give any fixed rates to-day. I cannot learn of any drawing on New-York. Cotton is still dull—extremes 5½ and 6 cts.

I must now close to witness Mr. Clay's reception. In haste, Yours, &c. A.

Currency Panic in Mobile.

Correspondence of The Tribune.

MOBILE, Ala. Feb. 13, 1843—11 A. M.

Yesterday was with us a day of greater excitement than has been witnessed in our city in a long while. Exchange was sold in the morning at 27 per cent. for 30 days, and in less than one hour brought 30 per cent. As there was only a small amount drawing and the drawing ceased at an early hour, the demand for Exchange being large, offers were made during the day as high as 35 per cent. and specie rose to 40 per cent. Before night a perfect panic prevailed. Many factors would not sell for currency, and those that did advanced in their prices. An agreement not to sell except for specie funds or their equivalent, was circulated and numerously signed. Every thing became unsettled, and when evening came it was impossible to know how we really stood. This morning drawers are offering 60 day bills on New-York and Boston at 40 per cent.; Sterling at 45 per cent.; Gold commands 43 per cent. Every thing is yet in an unsettled state. Many, in fact most of the merchants, continue to receive currency. Some however refuse, and some factors decline selling their Cotton hand, except for specie funds. A meeting of merchants is to be held this evening for the purpose of adopting some uniform plan of action, and we hope that you will soon be advised of our having reached a specie basis. What the result will be is hard to tell, as many very unwisely still cling to our irredeemable currency.

HENRY CLAY arrived in town yesterday at 11 A. M. and was landed at the wharf in front of Hitchcock's Press, where he was addressed by ex-Governor GAYLE, to which he replied in his usual happy manner. The crowd was so great that very few were able to hear him speak. Immediately after his reception, a procession was formed and he was escorted by the military and citizens to the residence of Mr. Ledyard. The streets through which he passed were thronged, and a more lively scene was never witnessed here. In the evening, Mr. Clay attended the Theatre, and at 9 P. M. he visited the Military Ball, given in honor of his visit, where he remained two hours, and was introduced to a large portion of the ladies and gentlemen who attended the Ball. He looks exceedingly well, and was in fine spirits. The ladies were delighted with their interview with him. General GAINES was also present at the Ball. Mr. Clay will receive calls to-day at the Mansion House and to-morrow at the Waverly, and on Monday next will return to New-Orleans. The Creole broke her shaft soon after leaving Ponchartraine, and being unable to arrive on Wednesday morning, lay at Pascagoula several hours so as to arrive on Thursday morning. While at Pascagoula, and during the whole passage, Mr. Clay kept the passengers, over fifty in number, in good spirits by his free and social intercourse with them. During the evening, while at the Ball, his wit and vivacity kept up laughter and lively spirits throughout the room. The Ball was very fully attended, and every thing passed off pleasantly.

I am unable to give any fixed rates for Cotton. Prices are very unsettled—extremes may be quoted for currency at 5½ and 6 cts. Freight to Liverpool ½ of a penny—New-York 1 cent per lb.

Later from Vera Cruz.

By the bark Eugenia, Capt. Bises, we have intelligence from Vera Cruz to the 17th Jan. and the El Siglo Diez of the 5th Jan. from the city of Mexico.

We translate from it the following:

"A HORRID ACT.—Between the 11th and 18th December, three assassins attacked Lieut. Don Joaquin Gonzalez Rios, the Director of the Convent of San Diego, while standing in the narrow hall near the door. After a fight of a quarter of an hour the Director received five wounds, only one being serious. One of the assassins dropped his poniard in the fight and was killed. The two others escaped. Their names are Francisco Barbosa and Francisco Lopez. Lopez fled toward the capital."

The Assemblies to nominate the Congressmen and Members of Chambers are in session, and the Governors of different Provinces have sent in their reports. The same paper, under a Postscript, announces that the division of the Army in the North of Mexico, under the orders of M. Ampudia, have obtained a victory over the Texians—alluding doubtless to the capture of Capt. Fisher.

There were no alterations of affairs at Campeche. All remained nearly as was stated before, except that the forces of the Mexicans were decreasing very rapidly, great numbers were dying with disease, and still greater numbers were deserting, being induced by an offer from Yucatan of \$3 and a suit of clothes to every man who would desert with his arms and accoutrements. The bells were ringing in this city, announcing victory for the Mexicans, when, upon ascertaining the truth, there had not been an engagement.

Business is dull at Vera Cruz. The brig Neuvitas had recently arrived from New Orleans; the schr. Victory, of New Haven, from Maracaibo, with a cargo of cocoa; brig Petersburg, Captain Larkin, of New York, arrived on the 13th of January. There were no other American vessels in port.

In Congress.

FRIDAY, Feb. 10.

IN SENATE Mr. LINN presented a petition from citizens of Missouri, asking Congress to take measures to secure the immediate occupation of Oregon; and Mr. McROBERTS presented resolutions of the Assembly of Illinois to the same effect. Petitions from Pennsylvania for the issuing of two hundred millions of National stock for the relief of the States; from citizens of Trenton for the establishment of the Exchequer, &c. were also brought forward.

The Army Appropriation bill was then taken up and several amendments adopted. One appropriating \$2,000 for continuing meteorological observations caused some debate but finally passed, 28 to 13. The bill was then read a third time and passed, and the Senate adjourned.

In the House the vote of Thursday being reconsidered the Oregon bill was sent to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

Mr. FILLMORE from the Committee of Ways and means, reported a bill authorizing the Secretary of the Treasury to re-issue whatever Treasury notes may be redeemed before the 1st of Jan. 1844.

Mr. J. R. INGERSOLL called up his motion to print 10,000 extra copies of his Report on Wm. Cost Johnson's plan of a loan to the States. Mr. ADAMS opposed it, saying that Mr. Ingersoll had stepped out of his way to make a report upon a subject which was properly in the hands of a Committee of which Mr. Johnson was Chairman.

Of Mr. JOHNSON's project itself he said, that gentlemen of both sides, whatever they may say or do, must sooner or later give it most serious consideration. Though he would not pledge himself to support Mr. Johnson's plan he still insisted that it had not received the attention which it demanded. He thought it most strange and marvelous that the Whigs should be so anxious to disclaim all imputation of favoring the project. A Governor of one of the States of the Union, he said, had solemnly declared that four-fifths of the people of Mississippi would sooner go to war than pay her debts. If foreign governments should insist upon their payment, and on being refused any aid from the general government, should treat Mississippi as a sovereign State and declare war against her, the Federal Government then would be obliged to interfere. The question must at some time come up for solemn adjudication and he trusted the matter would be boldly considered now.

Mr. GWIN replied by some sneers at Mr. ADAMS, founded upon his action at the Treaty of Ghent, and was just entering upon an apology for Reputation in Mississippi when the morning hour expired.

The bill establishing a Lunatic Asylum in the District of Columbia then came up and was debated at length. Several amendments were adopted, and after transacting some other business of local interest, the House adjourned.

New-York Legislature.

FRIDAY, Feb. 10.

IN SENATE, Mr. HARRIS's bill repealing so much of the law as provides for calling in the United States Deposit Fund was referred to the Finance Committee. The Senate refused to consider Mr. DICKINSON's resolution concerning the Port Schuyler operations, before referred to, by a party vote. The bill for paying expenses of an Agent in Holland was passed, and the Senate soon adjourned.

IN ASSEMBLY a great number of petitions were presented, and the Committee on Trade were instructed, on motion of Mr. LEE, to bring in a bill abolishing the compulsory feature of the Inspection Law. The Governor's message was then debated until the adjournment.

THE TREASURY.—By a letter from the Secretary of the Treasury presented in the House on Friday by Mr. FILLMORE, it appears that, if authority be given to reimburse the outstanding Treasury Notes, there will be a balance in the Treasury on Jan. 1, 1844, of nearly \$3,000,000.

Mr. J. W. S. HOWES lectures this evening at the Society Library upon the Lights and Shades of Genius. See his advertisement.

CORRECTION.—Appointment.—Tompkins County.—Moses R. Wright, master in chancery, in L. C. place of Augustus Wherry, whose term has expired.

GRAND MILITARY BALL.—A meeting of the Committee appointed to superintend the arrangements of the GRAND MILITARY INVITATION BALL, to be given at the Tivoli Saloon, on the 24th inst. in honor of the Anniversary of Washington's Birth Day, was held at the Atlantic Garden, Broadway, on Friday evening last. Col. PETERS in the chair, when it was unanimously

Resolved, That a meeting of the Officers of Uniform Corps generally should be called, the said meeting to take place on Monday evening, the 14th inst. at the Howard House, corner of Howard street and Broadway. The Chair to be taken at 8 o'clock, precisely.

The object of this meeting is to make arrangements for the distribution of L. B. Tickets. We trust our military friends will be present and in rendering the affair one of a splendid character.

A VALUABLE COPY-RIGHT FOR SALE.—Mr. Bennett of Arlington House, Long Island, offers by notice in this day's paper, the Copy-right of his work on Book-keeping for sale. It appears that the author has already been paid by the Messrs. Collins, booksellers of this city, about fifty thousand dollars as his share of the profits from the sale of this work. If this Book-keeping was ours we should not sell out, but go to Long Island and enjoy the "Other man's digitate."

Sedition in Philadelphia—Deliberate Murder of the Seducer by the brother of the Seduced—Great Excitement.

Correspondence of The Tribune.

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 12—P. M.

In one of my regular letters, a few days since, I briefly alluded to the alleged seduction, or rather abduction, as it was then called, of a young lady residing in South-west, and stated, at the time, that something serious was likely to grow out of the affair. That prediction has been most sadly realized, and it will now state, as briefly as I can, the circumstances connected with the dreadful affair, which has thrown our whole community into a state of the greatest excitement.

On Tuesday and Wednesday last, considerable talk was produced by the sudden disappearance of a young and handsome girl, aged about 16, named Sarah Mercer, the daughter of Thomas Mercer, 33 Queen street, one of the most wealthy and respectable inhabitants of North-west. A young man of this city, named Hutchinson Heberton, was arrested on suspicion of being concerned in her abduction, and taken before Alderman Mitchell, on the instance of the girl's brother, who threatened him with instant death if he returned to her parents on Wednesday evening. It was ascertained, however, that Heberton had seduced the young girl, and that she had gone to a house of ill fame, in the neighborhood of Pine and Twelfth streets, kept by Louisa O'Neil, where he had been in the habit of meeting her.

Miss Mercer's absence, however, did not terminate the matter, as it was known that she had been in the habit of meeting her seducer, but was voluntary. The anguish of the family at the knowledge of the dishonor that had fallen upon the daughter, no tongue can tell nor pen describe. To wipe out the stain so far as it was possible so to do, a marriage was proposed to the seducer. This was declined on his part, and the brother of the seduced then challenged him. This was also declined. The infuriated brother, stung almost to madness, determined not to be balked in his revenge. He watched the midnight hours, and bated his breath, until it was time to leave the city on Friday morning or evening in a carriage, by way of Camden, he managed to discover the same in the street, when he employed one of Vansever's vehicles, driven by a young man, to whom Mercer gave instructions, pointing out the carriage, to lose sight of it on no condition, but keep close to it, and wherever it went to follow after it. In this carriage, in company with Heberton, was seated his legal friend and adviser, Jas. C. Vanduyke, Esq., from whose office the deceased had left with the avowed object of preventing a meeting with the misguided and excited Mercer. After having driven through several streets, the carriage entered the Fairmount Hotel, then lying at Market-st. where Mercer, following after, leaped from his vehicle unobserved, and concealed himself behind a box on board the boat, armed with one of Colt's six-barreled pistols. Shortly after the carriage was driven on board with the blinds drawn up, and when within a few yards of the Jersey shore Mr. Vanduyke got out of the same, walked around, it is presumed, to see that all was safe, when Mercer approached the carriage and fired four balls into it in quick succession. One of them penetrated the heart. Heberton was conveyed to a stable, and remained there for several days, and upon his person was found the pistol, two barrels of which still retained their charge. His conduct during the remainder of the evening is represented as having been wild and frantic, evidently laboring under the most intense excitement.

Thus has the imprudent conduct of a young man, and the seduction of a young woman, led to the death of a young man, and the ruin of a family. When Miss Sarah Mercer entered her father's residence, after leaving the abode of infamy in Pine street, she avowed her determination not to remain—expressed her attachment for the deceased—and it was only by force that she was compelled to do so. It is said that her brother had sworn that she, too, who had disgraced her family, should fall the instant he laid eyes on her; but fortunately he was not permitted to stain his hands with a double murder.

The parties in the above lamentable drama are of the most wealthy and respectable character. Of the Mercers I have partly spoken; and will only add, that the name of the murderer is Singleton Mercer, for the past two or three years a clerk in the store of Carson & Newbold, South Wharves, not yet twenty years of age, stout and healthy, and of a good family. The murdered, Hutchinson Heberton, was the son of the late Dr. Heberton, of this city, and who is now a student of law at the University of Pennsylvania. He is also related to the Messrs. Heberton, who are taken by the Sheriff of Gloucester county to the Woodbury jail, to await his trial for the dreadful deed he has committed, about 1 o'clock yesterday, accompanied by two cousins and an attorney. He appeared perfectly calm and collected.

There are various rumors afloat in connection with this tragic occurrence, and the reputation of the dead Heberton, but I think I have narrated all that can be of interest, and which I believe is strictly correct. No exertion on my part has been spared to ferret out the whole affair, and where such universal excitement exists, as does both in this city, where the parties all belong, as in Camden, whose store was the scene of the unfortunate event, it is impossible to derive a more authentic statement. The verdict of the Coroner's Jury has not yet been made public.

Heberton's funeral will take place to-morrow (Monday) at 2 o'clock P. M. from his mother's residence.

It has been said that the murderer was one of 'awful retribution' and that it is such, all who know the parties will readily admit. Heberton has been proclaimed the seducer of a young and virtuous girl, blasting her fair fame, and destroying the peace and happiness of a hitherto